

No. R-10. House concurrent resolution in memory of Rabbi Max Wall of Burlington.

(H.C.R. 4)
(SPECIAL SESSION)

Offered by: Representatives Howrigan of Fairfield, Greshin of Warren, Koch of Barre Town, Lorber of Burlington, Minter of Waterbury, Ram of Burlington, Wizowaty of Burlington and Zuckerman of Burlington

Offered by: Senators Miller and Snelling

Whereas, Rabbi Max Wall's pastoral life spanned both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and encompassed both Jews and Christians under the most extraordinarily unimaginable circumstances, and

Whereas, he was born in Poland and immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of five, and

Whereas, Max Wall graduated from Yeshiva University and earned a master's degree and his rabbinical ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and

Whereas, the newly ordained rabbi enlisted in the U.S. Army, which deployed him to Germany where he ministered to both Jewish and Christian troops on the front lines of battle during the closing months of World War II, and

Whereas, after the military hostilities in Germany ceased, Rabbi Max Wall had conversations in Yiddish with the recently liberated Jews at the Dachau concentration camp, conducted an unusual Easter Sunday service in a Bavarian church, and led the first post-war Jewish services in the city of Munich, and

Whereas, in 1946, Rabbi Max Wall became the spiritual leader at the Yiddish-speaking Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington, which he guided for 41 years as the congregation made the denominational change from Orthodox to Conservative Judaism and the transition to prayer services led in English instead of Yiddish, and

Whereas, Rabbi Max Wall established a new interfaith dialogue in Vermont as the first person to teach Jewish studies at St. Michael's College, and

Whereas, his ecumenical activities also involved working with clergy of other faiths with whom he maintained many warm relationships, and

Whereas, he believed in lending an active helping hand to others facing difficult circumstances, including defending a University of Vermont professor under attack during the McCarthy era and traveling to the March on Washington in 1963 when the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech, and

Whereas, closer to home, he had served as a member of the Vermont Housing Authority, and

Whereas, Rabbi Max Wall, who was a compassionate, thoughtful, and scholarly spiritual leader and who expressed his desire to be remembered as a man who loved people, died at the age of 93, and

Whereas, his special life is one to celebrate, and his wife of 66 years, Miriam, three daughters, and five grandchildren will cherish the memory of a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Rabbi Max Wall and to the members of the Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Miriam Wall and to Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington.